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FRED GALVAN
RHODESIAN TALKS SET

ANNCR: NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN DISCUSSES FRIDAY'S LONDON ANNOUNCEMENT ON A FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA'S POLITICAL FUTURE.

VOICE: THE BRITISH ANNOUNCEMENT FRIDAY IN LONDON SETS THE TIME--OCTOBER TWENTY-FIFTH--AND THE SITE--GENEVA-- FOR PRELIMINARY TALKS TO SET UP A TRANSITION GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA LEADING TO PEACEFUL MAJORITY RULE WITH GUARANTEED MINORITY RIGHTS. AS SUCH, THE BRITISH ANNOUNCEMENT REPRESENTS A LONG STEP WITH WIDE IMPLICATIONS FOR PEACE NOT ONLY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BUT ELSEWHERE.

THE CONFERENCE WILL MOVE TOWARD THE CREATION OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OVER FROM THE PRESENT REBEL IAN SMITH REGIME IN RHODESIA. THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT IS TO GUIDE RHODESIA TOWARD INDEPENDENCE WITHIN TWO YEARS. PARTICIPATING IN THE GENEVA MEETING WILL BE ITS BRITISH CHAIRMAN, MISTER SMITH OF RHODESIA, AND RHODESIA BLACK NATIONALIST LEADERS. JUST WHAT ROLE WILL BE PLAYED BY RHODESIA'S NEIGHBORS, SOUTH AFRICA AND THE FIVE BLACK AFRICAN STATES WHO ARE BACKING THE RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS IS NOT KNOWN AS YET.

AT ANY RATE THE STAGE IS SET FOR A MEETING THAT SOME WEEKS AGO SEEMED BEYOND THE REACH OF THE PARTIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED--THE BLACK RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS AND THE SMITH REGIME. THE FRAMEWORK FOR THEIR AGREEMENT LEADING TO FRIDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT EMERGED FROM SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER'S RECENT TALKS WITH THEM AND SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS BY BRITISH AND AMERICAN SPECIAL ENVOYS.

NO ONE AT THIS POINT CAN ACCURATELY SAY WHAT THE CHANCES FOR SUCCESS IN GENEVA ARE. BOTH THE SMITH REGIME AND THE

BLACK RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS ARE FACING SOME OPPOSITION WITHIN THEIR OWN RANKS AS TO SOME PROVISIONS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN FORMULA. MISTER SMITH THIS WEEK SAID HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE FORMULA WAS CONDITIONED ON AGREEMENT BY ALL PARTIES CONCERNED ON ALL ITS POINTS, THE BRITISH, AMERICANS, BLACK GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS DIFFER. THEY ASSERT THAT THE AGREEMENT ACCEPTED BY MISTER SMITH IS A FRAMEWORK FOR THE PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS TO TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA. AS SUCH THE VARIOUS PARTS OF THE AGREEMENT ARE NEGOTIABLE.

THOSE ARE SOME OF THE PLUSES AND MINUSES INVOLVED IN THE SITUATION. ON BALANCE, THE PLUSES OUTWEIGH THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS. FOR IT IS TO BE EXPECTED IN THIS NEGOTIATION--AS INDEED IT IS IN ALL INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS--THAT EACH SIDE WILL TRY TO WRING THE BEST ADVANTAGE POSSIBLE FROM THEM. THE OVER-RIDING PLUS IN THE SITUATION IS THAT BOTH SIDES ARE WILLING TO DISCUSS THEIR POSITIONS AND SEEK A MEETING OF MINDS. BEHIND THAT WILLINGNESS IS A STARK REALITY FACING THEM--A REALITY REPEATEDLY STRESSED BY THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN DIPLOMATS INVOLVED. THAT IS THAT FAILURE TO AGREE ON A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE RHODESIAN ISSUE POSES TOO GREAT A THREAT TO PEACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WITH ALL THAT IMPLIES ELSEWHERE. BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND THIS WEEK PINPOINTED THAT THREAT WHEN HE TOLD THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB HERE IN WASHINGTON THAT IT COULD ONLY MEAN INCREASED GUERRILLA WARFARE IN RHODESIA AND NEIGHBORING AFRICAN AREAS THAT WOULD PLUNGE THEM INTO CHAOS AND DESTRUCTION.

IT IS FAIR TO ASSUME THAT THE GENEVA CONFEREES WILL DO ALL THEY CAN TO AVOID SUCH A CATASTROPHE.

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